

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes
9:30 AM – Senior Center
November 8, 2010

Members: Please call the Mansfield Senior Center at 429-0262 if you cannot attend.

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), E. Poirier, C. Pellegrine (Vice-Chair), J. Adamcik, J. Scottron, M. Thatcher, B. Lavoie (staff), A. Holinko, T. Rogers, Joan Terry (guest), C. Dainton (staff), Don Nolan

REGRETS: W. Bigl, S. Gordon, J. Quarto, T. Quinn,

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chair C. Pellegrine called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. She reported that Chair Tim Quinn is currently in Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehab. Carol moved that we change the order of the meeting to start with the Long-Range Plan update. Approved unanimously.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. Acceptance of Minutes: the minutes of the **October 12** meeting were accepted as written, noting that C. Pellegrine is Vice-Chair, and not Co-Chair.
- IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: none.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. Report of Nominating Committee: no report.
 - B. “Other”: none.
- VI. **Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations
 - A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – B. Lavoie reported that seniors are coming in with questions about open enrollment for Medicare. The DSS Medicare bus will be here on December 3 to assist people in understanding what their enrollment options are.
 - B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – C. Dainton distributed copies of her monthly report.
Senior Center Assoc. –T. Rogers had nothing new to report in the interest of time.
 - C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee: K. Grunwald reported that Masonicare is moving ahead with their plans to build a facility in town.

Wrights Way: J. Adamcik reported that the bus shelter is up and he appreciates everyone's support in getting this done.

Juniper Hill: no report.

Jensen's Park: E. Poirier reported that they have a visiting nurse and podiatrist that come once a month. They recently held a flu shot clinic.

Glen Ridge: no report.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, Senior

Resources of Eastern CT: no reports.

VII. Old Business

- A. Long Range Plan Update: C. Pellegrine proposed that we use the attached template to evaluate the plan. The Commission discussed the following areas:

Health Care Services: M. Thatcher provided work that has been done by a sub-committee in 2007. K. Grunwald pointed out that there is an interest on the part of some residents to look at offering geriatric medical services. B. Lavoie summarized the services currently provided through the Wellness Center. She added that geriatric services previously provided at McSweeney Center are no longer available. A. Holinko asked what the needs are that Barbara is seeing with clients. Barbara reported that Mansfield Family Practice is no longer accepting new patients who are covered by Medicare. C. Pellegrine asked whether this is something that the Commission can have an impact on. K. Grunwald talked about the possibility of setting up a satellite geriatric clinic at the Wellness Center. B. Lavoie stated that she is actively engaged in outreach efforts, and questioned whether or not we are reaching all those seniors we should be talking to. C. Pellegrine and E. Poirier feel that there are many seniors who are not informed about issues related to healthcare, and choose not to be. B. Lavoie questioned whether or not doctors should be more informed about the services provided through the Senior Center. C. Pellegrine feels that it is up to staff to determine that; look at making handouts available, etc. Some questions were raised regarding how to disseminate information in general. C. Dainton suggested that the Commission could take on an advocacy role to Senior Resources to express the need for geriatric services in this area. Commission members agreed to start with what is in the existing long-range plan and build on it. A. Holinko moved that the Commission send a letter to Senior Resources to be actively involved in supporting geriatric services in the area due to cuts in funding to the McSweeney Center. B. Lavoie suggested trying to be as specific as possible. It was agreed that C. Pellegrine will draft the letter and bring it for approval to the next meeting. T. Rogers asked that the Association be copied on the letter. The motion was approved unanimously. T. Rogers will propose formation of a Geriatric Committee of the Association. They have \$3000 earmarked to focus on developing geriatric services. B. Lavoie will set up a meeting for the new committee. C. Dainton suggested adding a bullet that "The Commission will

work collaboratively with the MSCA in the promotion of Health and Wellness activities.” It was suggested to look at staffing needs under the section on monitoring services.

Economy/Financial: K. Grunwald questioned whether or not the Commission is interested in the development of a Senior Job Bank. The question was raised as to whether or not there is a need for this. B. Lavoie reports that she does not get many requests in this area. C. Dainton maintains a job listing for seniors on the bulletin board, but does not see it as a huge need. C. Pellegrine feels that the need is sometimes for teenagers to do yard work, odd jobs, etc. T. Rogers says that he can provide some names when people ask, but often people don’t want to pay for services. C. Pellegrine says that the need is often for conservators, who can be difficult to find. We can post information about this, and also offer a presentation on conservatorship at the Senior Center. This area does not seem to be a priority at this time.

Physical Environment/Housing: Continue to support the work of the Assisted Living Committee. B. Pellegrine suggested advocating for environmental improvements like benches, bus shelters, automatic door openers, etc. Also look at the addition of supportive structures and devices to assist access to buildings.

Technology: C. Pellegrine feels that much progress has been made for Town Council meetings in terms of the taping of meetings and the availability of assistive hearing devices in the Council Chambers.

Safety and Security: T. Rogers suggested that the Commission report on the program offered by the police to provide automatic safety updates to residents. He can get a speaker to do a presentation on this. K. Grunwald pointed out that the TRIAD program can be used as a vehicle to address safety issues and to help inform seniors regarding possible scams, abuses and other areas of safety concerns. B. Lavoie suggested focusing on scams and different types of senior exploitation by possibly posting information on a bulletin board. The feeling is that this is more prevalent than when the survey was done.

Transportation: Agreed to “Continue to support and promote the use of Dial-A-Ride and the Volunteer Transportation program.” M. Thatcher suggests advocating for a bus shelter at the bus stop on Rt. 275. It was agreed that this will be supported by the Commission.

Services and Support: Include information about what is happening with the update to “At Your Fingertips.”

K. Grunwald will create a draft update of the plan for the next Commission meeting. It was agreed that this will be a 3-year plan.

- B. Volunteer Driver Program Update: The program is operating and has 10 volunteer drivers at this time.
- C. Triad: K. Grunwald provided information about the Yellow Dot program. T. Rogers raised a concern that nothing was publicized in the Chronicle about the

TRIAD ceremony, and that we need to get the word out about this program to seniors. C. Pellegrine suggested that the best way to get something into the Chronicle is to write a letter. B. Lavoie suggested other ways of getting the information out.

VIII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission: no comment.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 PM. Next meeting: **Monday, December 13, 2010** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald